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But  $a = bd/\sqrt{(b^2 - c^2)}$ .

$$\therefore V = \frac{d(2b^2 + c^2)}{3} [\pi - 2\sin^{-1}(e/c)] - (4de/3)\sqrt{(c^2 - e^2)} \\ + \frac{2d}{3\sqrt{(b^2 - c^2)}} \left\{ 2b^3 \sin^{-1} \left[ \frac{e/c}{\sqrt{\left( \frac{b^2 - c^2}{b^2 - e^2} \right)}} \right] + e(e^2 - 3b^2) \sin^{-1} \sqrt{\left( \frac{b^2 - c^2}{b^2 - e^2} \right)} \right\}.$$

A good solution, with diagram, was received from J. SCHEFFER.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SYLVESTER ROBINS.

Sylvester Robins was born in Union Township, Underdon County, New Jersey, December 14, 1834, and died at his home in North Branch, New Jersey, April 25, 1900, in the 66th year of his age.

During early boyhood, he attended the common school in the neighborhood, and very early manifested a deep interest in his studies.

At the age of 12 he entered the preparatory school of Rev. John Derveer, D. D., at Easton, Pennsylvania, where he continued for six years, during the last two years of which he was employed as assistant teacher. During the years from 1852 to 1873, Mr. Robins was engaged as teacher at Cedar Grove, Readington, and Bloomsberg, New Jersey, and for six and a half years at Easton, Pennsylvania.

In 1858 Mr. Robins was married to Miss Sarah J. Bird, and of this marriage there were born seven children—one of whom is Edward R. Robins, Instructor in Mathematics in Albany Academy, Albany, New York, and who is the author of *Algebra Reviews*, a small book published by Ginn & Co. before its author had reached the age of 21.

Mr. Robins loved mathematics and lamented the fact that his early opportunities had been so limited, and delighted to revel in finding series of rational triangles, rational trapezoids, or rational parallelipeds, for which he found "keys." Numerous problems of this character are proposed by him in the MONTHLY, and in the *Mathematical Magazine* and *Mathematical Visitor* published by Dr. Artimas Martin. It was somewhat surprising, how, in continued fractions from different numbers he would see the "key" to some kind of a mathematical figure. In his last letter to Mr. C. A. Roberts, an intimate friend of his and a mathematician interested in very much the same line of investigation, Mr. Robins wrote, "I hope you will indulge the spirit in which I write and pardon the writer, who can no more help his desire to ask you for aid, than he can escape the sight of triangles in the leaves, or of parallelipeds in the bricks under his feet."

Mr. Robins was a contributor to the MONTHLY from the first, and there are yet a number of his contributions in his favorite line of work in the hands of the editor.